it advisable to release the report and the recommendations immediately and to take decisions later on?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: I am all in favour of releasing it at the earliest. There is only one technical thing that we have got the English copy ready and can place it right tomorrow but we have to get the Hindi translation and perhaps that causes the problem in placing it early. As soon as the Hindi translation is ready, we will place it that very day.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Instead of placing the Report on the Table, if you can make the copies available for Members of Parliament, I think that would be helpful. But the question is, has the Committee looked into the question of induction of foreign technology and the cost of inputs which will be necessary to feed that technology and in that case what will be the additional items which the Abid Hussain Committee has recommended for import liberalisation connected with advanced technology?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Well, I will make the copies available to hon. Members, and certainly we want the opinion of the hon. Members on the suggestions in this important document. Regarding the cost of inputs, the Abid Hussain Committee has not gone into all such details and cost inputs. The suggestions on technology mainly are that where we can buy foreign technology by paying lump sum, we should be ready to buy it. Where we can get it straightway, we should try to get that. Then, if it is by equity participation, that will be the second step to buy it through equity participation if we can get it. And, of course, where we have to get it in the form of capital goods and in critical areas where there are critical gaps in our production or where it is necessary for foreign exchange earning and promotion of exports, in those areas certainly we should have this technology. But the main emphasis is that it should not be repetitive but it should be absorbed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Setting up of new Steel Plants

*2. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:

DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:*

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state the present position of the steel plants that are to be set up at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Vijayanagar in Karnataka and Daitari in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Steel Plant at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh is under construction. An annexure showing the status of construction of the Plant as on the 30th June, 1985 is attached.

A Detailed Project Report for the first phase of the Vijayanagar Steel Plant has been received. The commencement of work on the Project will depend upon the investment decision which has not yet been taken. However, certain preparatory/preliminary works such as land acquisition, topographical survey, geophysical investigations, soil investigations etc. have been undertaken.

As regards Daitari Steel Plant in Orissa, Feasibility Report for the first phase of the plant has been received by the Project Authorities. The likely schedule of setting up of the plant will depend upon the investment decision which has not yet been taken. The notification for the acquisition of land has been issued by the State Government. Soil investigations have been completed—as also studies on the availability of water. Some other studies on provision of infrastructure facilities for the proposed plant are under way.

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Shyam Sundar Mohapatra.

Annexure

The status of construction of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant as on 30th June, 1985 is a under :

Sl. No.	Item	Unit	Total quantity	cum. till June, 1985		
				schedule	Actual	%fulfilment of schedule
1	Civil Engg. Drawings	cubic metres	2797700	1940929	2014741	103.8
2	Structural Design Drawings	tonnes	465024	331086	345257	104.3
3	Specifications	Nos.	3300	2181	2176	99.8
4	Excavation	cubic metres	24843160	18795502	19292987	102.6
5	Piling.	Nos.	98356	71561	71995	100.6
6	Concrete	cubic metres	2952736	1590676	1573248	98.9
7	Strl. Fabn.	tonnes	465024	199937	191136	95.6
8	Strl. Erection	tonnes	465024	102827	80332	78.1
9	Equipment Ordering	tonnes	457736	327093	314758	96.2
10	Equipment Erection	tonnes	457738	26856	15545	57.9
11	Refractory Ordering	tonnes	180000	113231	113231	100.00
12	Refractory Erection	tonnes	18c000	42114	29836	70.8

DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPARA: Sir, from Mr. Kumaramangalam to Mr. Pranab Mukherjee to Mr. Vasant Sathe, the Orissa people have always been fed with the idea that there will be a second steel plant. For the last 12 years, the people have been given this idea. In 1980 after the late Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, thought about it, the Chief Minister said that it was a Pooja greetings to the people of Orissa. Now, why have you changed it from Paradip to Deitari? Sir, Paradip was a shore-based plant like Nippon's Tokyo-based plant which produces 10 million tonnes. You gloat over your performance in Bhilai, in Durgapur and in Rourkela which is more than a million or nearly 2 million tonnes. Japan produces 10 million or about a crore of tonnes of Steel. Now, by a direct reduction in electric are furnace system from the blast furnace, you are going to have mini steel plants. Mr. K. D. Malaviya had long back told this Parliament that he was going the Chinese way to have mini steel plants. Whereas in the blast furnace system you would have spent 4000 crores as in the big steel plants, here you have to spend hardly a little more than 300 crores. In the last budget, in 1985-86, hardly a crore of rupees have been allotted. It is like giving a balloon in the hands of children. That is how you treat the people of Orissa. We want to know what the reason was for changing it from Paradip to Deitari. All the world experts have

said that Orissa is the store house of raw material. Japan enriches itself from the iron ore which they took from Orissa. When it is so rich, why have you changed it from Paradip to Deitari? Mr. Khrushchev told late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru that power and steel are the two basic components for progress and Pandit Nehru thought of the blast furnace system of the U.S.S.R. giving us Bhilai, giving us Durgapur, giving us Rourkela and so many plants. Why have you changed it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two minutes are over.

DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: I am putting the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. I will give you a supplementary.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for enlightening the House about the various technologies and on the background of this particular plant. First of all, may I disabuse him of the impression that he has got that Government are treating the people of Orissa like children. This is your phrase, not ours. May I reiterate that we are not backing out of any commitment? But any Government has got to be realistic. Paradip Port was first to have this plant. The decision in favour of locating this plant at Paradip was changed due to adverse meteorological conditions at Paradip and it was felt that Paradip would not be a suitable site for the location of the new plant. In view of the above fact, it was decided to change the site to a place which is nearby and which is in the same region. It was decided to locate it at Deitari at a distance of 120 kilometres from Paradip. But the plant is still in Orissa. It has not been taken away to any other part of the country. Whether it is Paradip or Deitari is a matter of detail. The experts have gone into it and have come to a decision on the basis of available facts.

With regard to abandoning the blast furnace system: a feasibility report was prepared and it was found that any integrated steel plant which was to produce 1.3 million tonnes of steel per annum would cost Rs. 3066 crores.

This was based on the prices prevailing in the second quarter of 1982. Our experts also concluded that this plant producing 1.3 million tonnes of steel at this cost would be running at a loss in perpetutity. Sir surely all of us would appreciate that Government could not possibly go into a undertaking; considering the scarcity of resources, which would be running into prepetual losses. Therefore; an alternative technology was accepted for very good reasons.

DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Sir, the hon. Minister, Mr. Natwar Singh, was the Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and he has gone around the whole world. He says that for ecological reasons they have changed it from Paradip to Deitari. Sir Japan is a place of typhoons. If they could have a 10-million tonne plant at Tokyo bay itself; what stood in the way of the Minister to have it in Paradip and why did they change it from Paradip to Deitari? Sir, there has been no progress. Sir, Orissa is an under-developed State. They do not want to give us a Bhilai or a Durgapur. O.K. But the notification for the acquisition of land has been issued by the State Government. Sir, it is only a notification. When will you acquire the land? When will you go in for soil conservation? When are you going to spend this Rs. 1 crore? You never mentioned it. We want a specific assurance from you that it shall be expedited; and a target should be fixed so that the Orissa people will not again be fooled.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I would like to assure the hon. Member that the amount allotted for this year will be spent and there will be no delay in it. And if I may specifically say so; I used the term meteorological and not ecological.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Sir, the progress of work on the Vizag steel plant is very tardy. They allotted only Rs. 250 crores in the last Budget; and when we made a representation to the Prime Minister, he has kindly agreed to increase it by another Rs. 400 or Rs. 500 crores. But that has not yet been announced. I would like to know as to what is the latest estimated cost

of this project; how much been spent so far and what is the amount earmarked for this year and whether he would be able to stick to the schedule of commissioning the first phase by 1988-89. And secondly, there are rumours that there are attempts to scale down the size of this plant. I would like the hon. Minister to give a categorical assurance that no such attempt is being made.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, I was in Vizag myself last week, and if the hon. Member would look at the Annexure to the statement placed on the Table of the House he will see that the progress of work up to June 1985 has been more than satisfactory—Civil engineering drawings- 103 per cent of the target; structural design drawings—104 per cent; specifications 99.8 per cent; excavation 102 per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is there in the statement. You can just refer...

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: There are only two areas where the work is not satisfactory and the hon. Member is aware that one is the equipment erection which is 55 per cent. and I have gone into it. With regard to the production schedule, the schedule is that the first stage of 1.2 million tonnes will be commissioned in 1988-89 and the second stage to bring it to 3.4 million tonnes in 1991-92. It is our hope and it will be our endeavour to see if we can finish the work earlier. And I appealed to all concerned when I was at the Plant that they should accept this as a challenge and see that we finish this plant at an earlier date. Now, with regard to the availability of funds as you yourself know, the Prime Minister very generously made available funds to us. The figure of Rs. 315 crores in the Budget has been increased, if I am not mistaken to Rs. 700 crores.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: How much?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Rs. 700 crores. With this, the work of the Plant will continue at the rate which I have mentioned in many areas overfulfilling the targets. Wherever there is any difficulty, we will immediately take care of it.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will you stick to the schedule? He did not answer that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has said that the second stage will be taken up. Is it 3.1 million tonnes?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: 3.4 million tonnes.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, after hearing the pleas on two plants, I want...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why I gave you the preference.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I want to know the story of Vijayanagar plant and its fate. Sir as you know, this plant was thought of long time ago, and Mrs. Indira Gandhi laid the foundation stone also if I remember, in the year 1971 before the Lok Sabha election. There was a firm commitment by the Government of India that the project would be pushed through, but till today I think, there is no firm decision taken. And in respect of steel industry as a whole the Government of India seems to be following a very weak and if I may say so a lameduck policy, and there is no firm plan of any sort on the part of the Government of India or the Planning Commission in respect of a very important industry the steel industry. Sir, the cost of steel as you know is very high here compared to the cost of steel produced in other areas of the world. Japan is competing very well. They do not have iron ore, they do not have coal, but they have technology. And they have to import everything. And they are producing one of the cheapest steel in the world. Here we have everything perhaps, except right technology. But we have not been able to produce cheap and economic steel here. So, Sir, may I know coming back to this project, where do we stand now, whether the Vijaynagar and the Deitari projects are still good? I would like to have a categorical answer from the Minister. May I say that the Chief Minister of Karnataka has already committed to Mr. Sathe that the Karnataka Government is prepared to supply power and he has further said that

adequate power would be supplied for this plant. May I know at what stage this plant is and whether the capacity of this plant has been reduced scaled down and what is the type of technology that is being contemplated for this plant?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, I would like to say first that the Government's commitment for this plant remains. (*Interruptions*). You asked me, does the commitment remain, I said yes. You wanted a categorical answer I say yes. You did not express anything about the time-span. I have not said that the delay has not taken place but there are very good reasons for the delay that has taken place. Now the Daitari plant and the Vijaynagar plants are twin plants and the technology has now been accepted that it will be electric-furnace and the present status is that MECON has submitted a report on 18th October 1984, envisaging a production of 150 thousand tonnes of sponge iron and 210 thousand tonnes of finished products in the shape of light structurals and bars. In the first phase the capital cost including captive power generation is of the order of Rs. 422 crores. The reason why we came to this conclusion was that as in the case of the Daitari the integrated steel plant would cost in the neighourhood of over Rs. 3,000 crores and it would not be cost effective and would be running at perpetual losses and so it is our hope that the necessary funds that have been asked for will be forthcoming and in the Seventh Five Year Plan when the allocations are made and we will know what the exact figure is. Now, in view of the severe constraint of resources, phase one the break-up is as follows: First stage production of 150 thousand tonnes of sponge iron for sale estimated cost of Rs. 75 crores. Second stage production about 230 tonnes of billets for sale estimated cost without captive power plants Rs. 210 crores, with captive power plants Rs. 320 crores. Third stage, production about 210 thousand tonnes of finished bars, light structurals without captive power plants Rs. 422 crores. That is the position. Now my senior colleague, Shri Sathe has had a number of discussions with the distinguished Chief Minister of Karnataka in the regard and, as I said, the commitment remains, but so does the paucity of funds.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman Sir, I am somewhat confused by the politics of steel-making. So, I would steer clear and remain non-aligned about it. (*Interruptions*) Sir, my information is that despite our foreign exchange stringency, in 1985-86, we are likely to import roughly a million and a half tonnes of steel which is about twice the amount that we imported last year. Sir our capacity utilisation of the five integrated steel plants to my information, has fallen to about 73 per cent. This, despite the fact that investment in the last five years outside of the capital investment which is about Rs. 1200 crores, has been about Rs. 1100 crores, precisely to increase capacity utilisation. Sir, we have unsold stocks today in the public sector steel plants and I am given to understand that they are roughly of the order of about 6 hundred thousand tonnes. Now, given the fact that we have foreign exchange difficulty, that steel imports are rising; that we have low capacity utilisation, that we have unsold stocks, firstly is the picture that I have painted correct? Secondly, what are you going to do to raise the capacity of the existing plants, clear the unsold stocks and integrate all the plants that you wish to now bring up into this totally dismal picture?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I would like to inform the hon. Member that both Shri Sathe and I are aware of the fact that our plants are not producing as much as they should and we have been for the past 6-7 months, applying our minds to find out remedies for raising the capacity. There has been some imporvement. The figure that the hon. Member has given, that it is about 73 per cent in 1985-86 This relates to hot metal production targets in case of Bhilai; it 86 per cent Bokaro is 65 per cent; Rourkela it is 78 per cent; for Durgapur the figure is 65 per cent and 11 SCO is 69 per cent; but it is hoped that the picture will be slightly better in a few years. The position with regard to stocks also both in the stock-yards in the plants and at the SAIL stock yards in different parts of the country has improved during the last 5 months. We now have stocks at about 5 million tonnes where as in 1983-84. it was considerably higher.

The reasons for poor performance of our plants are:

(1) very old machinery; (2) poor quality of coking coal; (3) multiplicity of unions; (4) excessive manpower; and (5) power supply position. Regardless of this, we have impressed upon the entire establishment, both at SAIL and in the plants that efficiency and maintenance should improve and I would like to submit most respectfully that as one who is in charge of steel industry of India, I do not find it comfortable that we should be importing 1.5 million tonnes instead of exporting it; it is something wrong which we would like to set right.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government is aware of the fact that cost of productiton of steel in our country is much higher compared to what it is in other countries. While designing and while trying to put up steel plants, we should also look to the aspect of cost of production. I feel the statement of the Minister that has very nicely been brought out and I must congratulate him for the extensive information that it gives...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not part of your question.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA....it remains silent on one aspect and that is cost aspect. If we are going over to modern technology we ought as well to compare our cost of productiton with other countries. We are changing over to something better and at the same time, cost of production should be uppermost in our mind. Is the Government going to take measures to see that it is competitive and it compares favourably with the international market?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I thank the hon. Member for the . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Compliment.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Yes, for the compliment.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Every action has equally a reaction.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: The age of chivalry is not dead. Anyway, of course the Government is very conscious of the fact that our production should not cost as much as it does. We are in touch with all the concerned as to how to reduce the cost at Daitari and Vijayanagar.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : श्रीमन् जापान भी गुलाम हो गया था और हमारे साथ आजाद हुआ। बिना रा-मैटीरियल के रहते उसने हमसे थाउजैंड टाइम्स स्टील सस्ता प्रोड्यूस किया। उसके पास लोहा नहीं था उसने वह तत्व चाहे खरीदा, चुराया जो किया लेकिन हमारे पास तो टाटा आयरन एण्ड स्टील कम्पनी थी जो पहले से स्टील कुछ न कुछ तैयार करती थी। तो हमारे पास साधन होते हुए भी रा-मैटीरियल का, और आजाद हम साथ ही हुए, आज वह हमसे हजारों गुणा स्टील प्लांट सस्ते और अच्छा प्रोड्यूस कर रहा है और हम इसका साधन रखते हुए क्यों लगिंग बिहाइड कर रहे हैं; एक सवाल तो इस तरफ है।

दूसरे आश्चर्य यह भी है कि जैसे जसवंत सिंह जी ने कहा कि हमारे पास स्टील बहुत-सा पड़ा हुआ है और दूसरी ओर जो बाजार में 150 टाइम्स स्टील महंगा भी हो गया है, यह बात भी समझ में नहीं आ रही है।

तो मैं अंत में यही जानना चाहता हूं कि इन दोनों के संदर्भ में देश स्टील के मामले में पर्याप्त प्रोडक्शन कर सके, उसमें जो यहां तीन स्टील प्लांट्स का उदाहरण आया है जिसमें आपने कहा कि तेजी कर रहे हैं, लेकिन वस्तुतः तेजी नहीं है जिस तरह कि दुनिया में दूसरे प्लांट्स में तेजी होती है, चाहे लोहा

लेकर, चाहे जल्दी से जल्दी एस्टेबलेशमेंट में; क्योंकि हम जानते है कि जो योजना हम लेते हैं एक करोड़ की, तो वह पूरी करते-करते पांच करोड़ या दस करोड़ तक चली जाती है। तो इस तरह से देरी करके हम उसकी प्रोडक्शन बहुत कम कर देते हैं और खर्चा बहुत बढ़ा देते हैं। तो इस संदर्भ में हम जानना चाहते हैं कि भारत सरकार ने इन सब चीजों को देख कर अपने स्टील प्लांट उत्तम तरीके से और सस्ते प्रोडयूस करें, इसके लिए वास्तव में क्या नई टक्नोलोजी डेवेलप की है और क्या नया रास्ता आप एडाप्ट कर रहे हैं ?

श्री के० नटवर सिंह : जैसा कि मैंने अभी अर्ज किया है कि सरकार का पूरा प्रयत्न है कि इस्पात बनाने के लिए नई से नई टकनालोजी हमें मिले और जो कारखाने इस्पात के पूर्ति से, एफिशेंसी से काम नहीं कर रहे है, वह लाई जाय। अब आपने कहा कि जापान के पास साधन तो नही हैं सिवाय टैकनालोजी के वह आयरन और भी बाहर से मंगवाते है और कोयला भी बाहर से मंगवाते हैं। उन्होंने आस्ट्रेलिया में अपनी कैप्टिव माइंस लगाई हुई है, हमारे यहां कप्टिव माईस नहीं हैं। हमारा कोयला जो है, उसमें करीब 20-22 फीसदी खराबी होती है और हमारी जो ब्लास्ट फरनेसेज हैं, वह भी 17 प्रतिशत पर चलने वाली हैं।

तो एक तो इंतजाम यह करना है कि हम अगर बाहर से कोयला मगायें और मैं यह देख रहा हूं और साठे साहब भी देख रहे हैं कि अगर हम बाहर से कोयला मगायें, इम्पोर्ट करें और अगर हमारा प्रोडक्शन बढ़ जाय, तो जो उस पर लागत लगेगी इम्पोर्ट करने में, वह मुनाफा हो जाएगा इनडिजनस प्रोडक्शन के अन्दर। उसकी भी कोशिश हो रही है।

दूसरे, मैं बहुत नम्रता से निवेदन करता हूं--जैसे आपने जापान की मिसाल दी है, जैसे कि हमारे प्लांट्स है जिसमें हम प्रोडयूस करते है 1.2 मिलियन टन इस्पात, तो उस कारखाने में 40 हजार लोग काम करते हैं और उसी स्टील को बनाने के लिए जापान में दस हजार लोग काम करते है। . . . . . **(व्यवधान)**

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : उनकी मजदूरी मंहगी है, हमारी सस्ती है।

श्री के० नटवर सिंह : क्या महगी है।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : उनकी लेबर महंगी है।

श्री के० नटवर सिंह : किनकी लेबर मंहगी है ? देखिये लेबर के सवाल नहीं है। आपको मालूम है कि--मैं सेंट-परसेंट तो नहीं मगर हमारे स्टील प्लांट्स में जो काम कर रहे है, उनकी तनख्वाह करीब-करीब दो हजार रु० है और हम उसमे दो लाख पांच हजार लोग लगाते है अपनी स्टील इंडस्ट्री में, जहा कि जापान उसमें लगायेगा चालीस हजार और उनके लिये जो एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव खर्चा है. . . **(व्यवधान)**

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : देखिये जापान में. . . **(व्यवधान)** . . . सुन तो लें . . . **(व्यवधान)** यहां का अधिकारी जो है. . **(व्यवधान)** सुन तो लें पूरा. . . अध्यक्ष जी, दो हजार रुपया तो लेबर को बिलकुल नही है। यह गलत इनफर्मेशन हाऊस को और देश को दे रहे हैं. तो क्या होगा।

श्री के० नटवर सिंह : मैंने आपसे यह नही कहा कि तनख्वाह मिलती है। उनके सारे अलौसेज इत्यादि मिला कर उतनी बनती है।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : ऐसा नही है।

श्री के० नटवर सिंह : भाई, 1800 होगी।

श्री सुलतान सिंह : भाई एक रुपया मिलता होगा, पर सुनिये तो।

श्री के० नटवर सिंह : आपका सवाल इस्पात के बारे में है या कि तनख्वाह के बारे में ? अगर आप तनख्वाह के बारे में बहस करना चाहते हैं, तो वह भी कर लीजिये।

मैं अगली मीटिंग में वह आंकड़े ले आऊंगा, पर जरा सुनिये तो। अगर हमारे आंकड़े गलत होंगे, तो आपसे कह दूंगा कि गलत है।... (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you should not answer supplementaries to supplementaries. You should answer only the supplementaries and stop. If there are any interruptions, you should not answer the interruptions. Otherwise, the Question Hour will go on expanding. Please answer only the supplementary.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: I stand corrected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Coal supply for power generation

*3. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the thermal power generation in India has suffered heavily due to poor coal supply;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some power generation units have been shut down for want of coal; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to ensure adequate supply of coal to the power industry?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. In fact, the coal supplies to Thermal Power Stations have shown substantial increase during the last three years as indicated below:—

(*Figures in million tonnes*)

	Quantity of Coal supplied
1982-83 . . .	51.61
1983--84 . . .	58.11
1984-85 . . .	64.30

The supply during the first quarter of 1985-86 have been 18 52 million tonnes as compared to 15.37 million tonnes in the same period of the previous year showing an increase of 20.5 per cent.

However, the coal stocks at some power stations are low because of transporation problems, inadequate facilities at the power stations for stocking of coal|handling of coal wagons and also due to inadequate production of coal by the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., as compared to the demand.

(b) No such instance has come to notice. However, in the case of Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station of NTPC, it has been reported that even though the third unit of 210 MW was ready for operation in April 1985 ahead of schedule, it could not be operated due to insufficient supplies of coal from Singareni Collieries Company Limted, Sufficent quantity of coal has now been assured for running this third unit also by re-adjustment of supplies to other Power Stations.

(c) Constant liasion is being maintained between the agencies involved, namely, Coal Companies, Railways and Electricity Boards. Regular coordination meeting are also held among concerned Ministries, as a result of which there has been substantial improvement in the coal supplies to Thermal power Stations during 1985-86 as compared to the previous year. Further, a plan has been drawn up by the Department of Coal, Deptt. of Power and the Ministry of Railways to build up stocks of one month's requirement at the major power stations, excepting those which do not have adequate storage/handling facilities. Steps have also been taken to improve coal production in Singareni Collieries Company Limited, to meet the increasing demand from Thermal power Stations and other consumers in Southern India.

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, for part (b) of my question whether it is also a fact that some power generation units have been shut down for want of coal, the answer given is no such instance has come to notice I think this answer by the Minister is self-contradictory and *ipso facto* incorrect on the basis of the report that has come in